



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Mary Riley Styles Public Library Hosts Kokolopori Micro-Credit Fund Discussion

Monday, June 4, 2007

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – The Mary Riley Styles Public Library invites the Falls Church City community to learn about a new fund established to assist entrepreneurs and conservationists in Kokolopori -- Falls Church's Sister City in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This free program will be held Monday, June 4 at 7 p.m. in the library's conference room.

The Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister City Partnership raised more than \$12,400 for the micro-credit fund at a recent benefit reception. Jean Marie Benishay, DRC Director of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative, will discuss how that money is being used to help small business entrepreneurs in Kokolopori lift their families out of poverty and build the economic security of their community.

Kokolopori is a remote group of villages without electricity or automobiles, unified under a traditional government, in one of the world's most pristine rainforests. The people of Kokolopori are on the front lines of efforts to protect critical rainforest habitat in the Congo River Basin from logging, mining, and commercial bushmeat hunting. This includes conservation efforts to protect the bonobos, the rarest of the four great ape species.

The sister city partnership was established in February 2006 to promote understanding, friendship and cooperation between citizens in the two communities who share a common interest in sustainable community development and rainforest and wildlife conservation.

For more information about the partnership, visit www.kokolopori-partnership.org. For more information about the micro-credit discussion, call 703-248-5030 (TTY 711).

WHAT: Kokolopori Micro-Credit Fund Discussion
WHEN: Monday, June 4, 2007
TIME: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Mary Riley Styles Public Library
120 N. Virginia Ave., Falls Church, VA 22046

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www.fallschurchva.gov